



CHURCH *of the* HOLY CROSS

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmarydel.org



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

June 19, 2022

Corpus Christi

holy cross

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

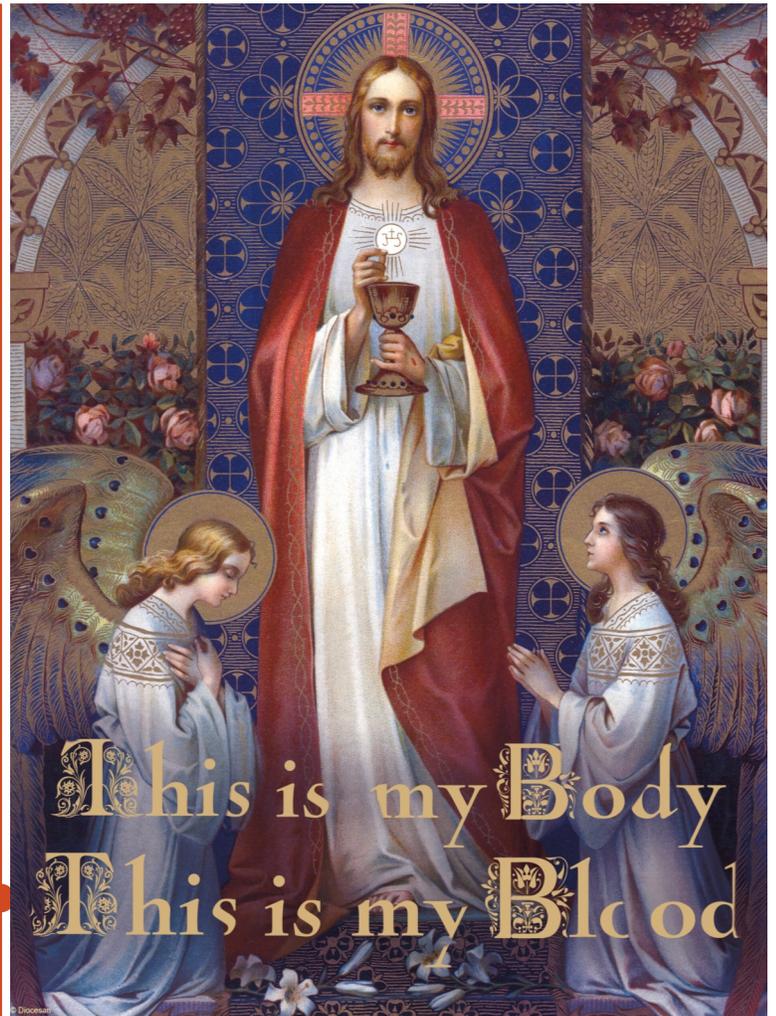
Monday-Saturday, 8 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day,
MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day,
Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 8:30 am – 10:00 am,
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



This is my Body
This is my Blood

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
Thursday, 6:30 pm

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1
Assumption, August 15
All Saints' Day, November 1
Immaculate Conception, December 8
Christmas, December 25

Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

The seven Sacraments of the Church were instituted by Christ to confer grace.

Sacrament of Baptism. Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

Sacrament of Confirmation. Young people in our parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Marriage. Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

Anointing of the Sick. For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

MASS ON MONDAY, JUNE 20, WILL BE AT 9 AM DUE TO THE FEDERAL HOLIDAY OF JUNETEENTH DAY.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, June 25th, learn about a new study from Vinea search that examines Catholics' faith life and well-being in post-pandemic America, when researcher Hans Plate is interviewed. Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts.

SWITCH TO EGIVING THIS SUMMER (HC)

Online donations through Faith Direct help sustain our parish ministries and keep our offertory consistent during the busy summer vacation months. If you make the switch today, you'll be giving steady, consistent support to the parish ministries you care about most in the months ahead – even if you're out of town during summer weekends.

Helping us to reach this goal is simple: visit HC website and go to Online Giving. Any questions, call the Parish Office.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

June 5, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$23,467	\$25,700	(\$2,233)
YTD	\$1,293,054	\$1,272,900	\$20,154
Needs	\$1,348	\$1,480	(\$132)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending June 5, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$3,852
2nd collection	\$337

Thank you to all advertisers in our bulletin. We appreciate your support!

If you know of someone who would like to advertise in the bulletin, please contact Diocesan Publications at 800-233-8200.

Dear Parishioners,

On this Sunday, as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ (aka Corpus Christi), our focus is on the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist, the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. Today, we celebrate the 700-year-old event of St. Peter of Prague, a priest doubting in the truth of the Holy Eucharist, seeing with his parishioners, the Sacred Host turn to flesh before his eyes, and the blood of Christ emerging from it. It was a matter investigated by the Church 700-years-ago and again 50 years ago, to affirm the great Eucharistic Miracle which is celebrated on this great holy day in the life of the Church. This truth of Christ's presence, made explicit on that day 700 years ago reminds us, to quote Procol Harum (for those under 60, consult Wikipedia), "The truth won't fade away."

Corpus Christi. The Eucharist – the Body and Blood of Christ – is the center of our lives of faith. On this Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) it is worth reminding ourselves that as Catholics, we are called to live our life around the Eucharist. We are called to live a life lived in Communion with Christ and his Church: a life lived simultaneously in the shadow of the Cross and in the light of the resurrection. In short, we are called to live a life in which all things are summed up in Christ.

In Communion. But what does it mean to live a life in communion? I mean, on its face, that is a loaded statement. A life in communion. One can live a life in communion with evil. One can live a life in communion with the worst our world has to offer. But the communion of which I speak is a holy communion.

The Communion of Saints. The term communion in the Church connotes several different but interconnected truths. When we say we are in communion with the Church, that refers to Communion of Saints – that is those faithful on earth, in heaven and in purgatory. We are in communion with all of those folks. Communion also refers to connection and assent to Church's teaching – being in Communion with the teachings of the Church. It can also refer to Communion with God – that is a holy connection to the will of God. Mary – our blessed mother – experienced a perfect communion in that sense: She was fully living a life in accord with the will of God.

Holy Communion. And when we come to the Eucharist – the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass... and when we are properly disposed (in the right frame of mind, heart and soul) and receive the Sacred Host... that is the fullness of all Communion. As we say "Amen" when we receive the Eucharist: we are saying "yes Lord, I am in Communion – I believe that this Sacrament is the body and blood of Christ, I believe in the Church in Heaven on Earth and in Purgatory and in its teachings." And thus, when we are in such a proper frame of mind, we are able to worthily receive Holy Communion because we are in fact in Holy Communion.

Contractual Language. The word communion is a contraction of sorts – you remember contractions: don't, won't, isn't and the one that made my Third Grade teacher, Sr. Fabian, crazy, ain't. While the band Cheap Trick lamented, "Ain't that a shame," there is no shame in contractions... they are merely words that help us to communicate more simply. Contractions are words that are shortened together by an apostrophe. Then you have another type of contraction. A contraction born of compressing words: Like the word, "Goodbye" which is contracted form of "God be with you." Communion is that type of a contracted form of a word. The word Communion is a shorthand way of saying a common union. Thus, Communion reflects the ideas of a common bond, a common belief or a common connection.

Here I am Lord! What communion is not is also an important thing to know. A Communion is NOT, I repeat NOT, an agreement between us and God. It is not us negotiating a contract between the Father and ourselves – Christ has done that, and it is called the new covenant. Being in Communion means we assent to that covenant and all that it represents. To put it in song, if we are in Communion, true Communion, we are singing "Here I am Lord" we are not singing "My Way" or "That's the Way a-ha a-ha I Like It." It is not about us, it is about God.

Communion vs. Consensus. Some folks may see communion as a form of consensus, that

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F. Pastor
 Msgr. Daniel McGlynn Pastor Emeritus
 Rev. Mano Salla Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

Mr. Philip Belt Deacon
 Mr. John Harvey Deacon
 Mr. Richard Kosior Deacon
 Mr. Robert McMullen Deacon
 Mr. Vincent Pisano Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell Deacon

HC STAFF

Parish Office 302 674 5787
 Jane Green Receptionist, ext. 110
 Diane Belt Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
 Kenneth Trojan Business Manager, ext. 119
 Michele Dornberger Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
 Arline Dosman Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118
 Tammy Korosec CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
 Linda Darling Youth Ministry, ext. 123
 Justin Wurzel Maintenance Director
 Len Dornberger Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
 Michael Perza Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

Church of the Holy Cross
 631 S. State St.
 Dover, DE 19901

ICC STAFF

Parish Office 410 482 7687
 Marilyn Dixon Office Manager
 Alicia Poppiti DRE Religious Ed.
 Susan Venezia Bookkeeper
 Arline Dosman Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

MAILING ADDRESS

Immaculate Conception Church
 P. O. Box 399
 Maryland, MD 21649-0399

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8
 302 674 5787
 holycrossdover.org/school

Linda Pollitt Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

Holy Cross School
 631 S. State St.
 Dover, DE 19901

MEN OF HOLY CROSS

Thanks to our newest innovation (a state of the art "Meeting Owl" which makes you feel like you are



there in person), all you need is your smartphone, tablet or computer to join our meetings. Just type in on a web browser the below link or click on the following link and it will automatically guide you through the Zoom Meeting set up and join our (Hybrid in person or via zoom) (We also meet in person 2nd floor of the ELC building) meeting. <https://zoom.us/j/83606382292> pass code 631 Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM (time certain) . We are currently viewing episodes from Knights of Columbus " titled "Into the Breach".

SVDP MEETING AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

St. Vincent de Paul meeting the 2nd Mon. of the month at 5 PM, in the office meeting room.

Next meeting is Monday, June 13, 2022, at 5 pm.

13TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (JUNE 26)

FIRST READING: 1 KING 19:16, 19-21

Elisha leaves behind his parent and his farming lifestyle and follows the itinerant prophet Elijah as his servant.

SECOND READING : GALATIANS 5:1, 13-18

We are called to be free, not to a life selfishness and sin, but to one of generous service of others.

GOSPEL: LUKE 9:51-62

Following Jesus requires a wholehearted commitment.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our prayer shawl ministry continues to meet each Tuesday morning from 10 am to 12 Noon in the St. Luke Room on the second floor of the Early Learning Center Building. Newcomers are welcome. If you know someone who could use a prayer shawl or if you would like one yourself, please call the parish office and we can pass along the message to the group.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Hopefully you eat dinner together most days. Ponder how you nourish each other both with food and kindness.

PARENTING POINTERS

What qualities do you think make an ideal father? Did you learn any of these from your own father? Tell him in person or prayer. Identify one quality that you especially want to pass on to your own child. Take a step to do it today.

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Upcoming weekend programs will be held August 19 - 21 and October 14 - 16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Looking for an in-person or virtual experience getting closer to your spouse? Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!! Many options for virtual events can be found on our website www.wvme-delmar.org. For additional information please call Tony and Linda Masino at 302-648-2228.

MASS INTENTIONS JUNE

20 MONDAY
HC 9:00 am Father's Day Novena

21 TUESDAY
HC 8:00 am Father's Day Novena

22 WEDNESDAY
HC 8:00 am Father's Day Novena

23 THURSDAY
HC 8:00 am Father's Day Novena
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

24 FRIDAY
HC 8:00 am Father's Day Novena

25 SATURDAY
HC 8 am Father's Day Novena
HC 5 pm Barbara Casey

26 SUNDAY
HC 7:30 am Louise O'Brien
ICC 8:30 am Valarie Adam
HC 9:30 am Rev. Thomas E. Hanley
ICC 11 am Teresa Crenshaw
HC 11:30 am Father's Day Novena
ICC 1 pm For the People

*(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)*

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

We continue to receive very positive comments on the care, maintenance and overall condition of our cemetery. Credit goes to Danny Waite and his staff at Cemetery Care Services, to our very active Cemetery Committee for the ongoing enforcement of our Rules & Regulations, and to the families and friends of loved ones interred in our cemetery.

As a reminder, the Rules & Regulations are strictly enforced and apply not only to in-ground graves but to the mausoleum and columbariums as well, with the purpose of ensuring the sacred character and good order of our cemetery. Copies of our Rules & Regulations are available at the parish office.

HOLY CROSS JUNE 25/26, 2022

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM F. Ernst D. Novack S. Murawski
D. Mac-Leish J. Salamone A. Zink
M. MaLeish E. Zink

LECTORS

L. Christiansen
V. Viddy

7:30 AM A. Fischer P. Sheldon S. Shevock
J. Fischer M. Thompson E. Washams
R. O'Neill

LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM D. Martinez N. West E. Bydlon
T. Doman R. Wiley A. Carter
G. Richards R. Willemin

LECTORS

T. Baurys
C. Parks

11:30 AM R. Ramirez R. Richards K. Espinosa
B. Guzman E. Guzman C. Geronimo

LECTORS

A. Luna

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM M. Dixon

LECTORS

T. Woodeshick

11:00 AM B. Vanvessan

LECTORS

L. Schlaupitz

1:00 PM To be determined

LECTORS

ATTENTION ALL EXTRA-ORDINARY
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Parishioners in need of our Homebound Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds, and we need more EM's who are willing to become part of our homebound ministry. We serve nursing homes, assisted living facilities, the hospital, and those at home.

Please consider joining this ministry. We will train you and have you shadow another EM to get you ready. Call the Parish Office so we can get you started. Please pray to discern if this ministry would be for you. We need your help!!

Call 302-674-5787,
ext. 110 or 113 to leave your name.

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS

It's a question every Catholic man needs to ask - and answer. God calls you to lead with faith in all you do. The Knights of Columbus is here to help. We offer the Catholic faith formation, financial protection, and family resources that can help you grow as a father, husband, and leader. With the Knights, you can become the man you want to be - and your family needs. Learn more at KofC.org and find out how you can make a difference and enjoy the benefits of becoming a Knight. Lead, they'll follow.

NEWLY REGISTERED

Welcome to our newly registered families at Holy Cross:

- Roger and Virginia McClean
- Edward and Virginia Talbot
- Harry, Jessica, Vivian and Alice Lehman
- Chang, Sung, Daniel, Brian, and Angela Song

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families of those recently deceased:

- Kiyo Belanger
- William F. Riecker

May the Souls of the Faithful Departed, rest in Peace, Amen.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

The Adoration Chapel is open again each day from 5 am to 9 pm. If you would like to take a permanent time slot, it's not too late. We still have many openings on various days. See the openings listed below. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

SUNDAY	6 am, 10 am, 5 pm, 8 pm
TUESDAY	3 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am
THURSDAY	12 pm
SATURDAY	5 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

NUESTRA FAMILIA HISPANA

- Un hasta luego a nuestro padre Mano que fue asignado a la parroquia de San Edmundo en Rehoboth y al mismo tiempo le damos la bienvenida al nuevo sacerdote el padre Brennan Ferris; gracias por su servicio al pueblo de Dios en las parroquias de la Santa Cruz y La Inmaculada Concepción. Siempre están en nuestras oraciones.
- Un agradecimiento especial a todos los que colaboraron con la organización de Procesión de Corpus Christi. Hoy se abre el periodo de Avivamiento Eucarístico donde los Obispos de los Estados Unidos están llamando a un avivamiento de tres años de la devoción y la creencia en la Presencia Real de Jesús en la Eucaristía. Crean que Dios quiere ver un movimiento de católicos en todo Estados Unidos, curados, convertidos, formados y unificados por un encuentro con Jesús en la Eucaristía, y enviados en misión “para la vida del mundo”. Estos tres años culminarán con el primer Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en Estados Unidos en casi cincuenta años. Casi cien mil católicos se reunirán en Indianápolis en una peregrinación única hacia la “fuente y cumbre” de nuestra fe católica. Que culminara con un Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en Indianápolis, Indiana del 17-21 del 2024.
- Viene a Delaware Conquistando las NACIONES para CRISTO – Retiro DE Sanación Interior. Solamente para adultos mayores de 18 años. Del 8-10 de julio. En la parroquia de Los Santos Ángeles en Newark. Donación es de \$125. Para más información llame al 302-442-5887 – 410-212-8467 o hable con Epitacio Méndez, Marta Espinosa, Tayde Hernández, Manuel Espinoza, José Cruz Pérez, Mireya Rodríguez o Laura Méndez.
- Confirmación para Adultos: Si usted es mayor de 18 años de edad y no se ha recibido su sacramento de la Confirmación las clases de preparación empezaran pronto. Habrá Confirmaciones de Adultos Hispano el domingo 10 de Julio. Para

más información hable con el Sr. Antonio Luna o llame a la oficina de la parroquia al 302-674-5787 ext. 118.

- Si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como lector, ministerio de música, ujier, ministros Extraordinario de la Comunión, Arte y Ambientación, dar Clases Pre - bautismales. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118
- La virgen peregrina empezara visitando casas el próximo domingo, si usted desea tener la virgen en su casa por una semana por favor hable con la Sra. Marta Espinosa.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

- La inscripción para el año escolar 2022-2023 está abierta, las inscripciones están disponibles para todas las familias y aún se aceptan. Debe inscribir a sus hijos cada año. Vuelva a Alicia Poppiti ahora, para que podamos estar seguros de tener suficientes maestros, libros y espacio en las aulas.
- Necesitamos Catequistas, Asistentes, sustitutos y ayudantes para el próximo año para la Educación Religiosa los domingos por la mañana, desde el 18 de septiembre hasta el 7 de mayo, de 9:40 a 10:50 a.m. Póngase en contacto con Alicia Poppiti @ 410-482-8939 o dre@iccmmarydel.org para obtener más información.
- Las inscripciones ya están disponibles. Los niños deben estar registrados para asistir.
- ¡Se necesitan miembros del equipo para la VBS de Food Truck Party!La
- La Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones en La Inmaculada Concepción es del 1 al 5 de agosto, de 6 a 8:30 p. m. en el Salón. Los niños deben estar inscritos para asistir. Más información sobre la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones en las próximas semanas.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Registration forms available at holycrossover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis) Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF? Registration forms available at <https://holycrossover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation> If you have any questions please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

SAVE THE DATE (HC)

Vacation Bible School July 11-15th, 2022
9 am – 12 pm
Ages PK4-Grade 4



Registrations forms available on Holy Cross Website. **Capacity is limited.** Registration Forms due 6/30/2022. Volunteers needed 5th grade – 99! Volunteer Registration forms available on <https://holycrossover.org/about-us/headlines/6436-vacation-bible-school-2022>

YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Registration for Confirmation Preparation (HC - 2023)

Forms to register for Confirmation Preparation 2023 may be found on the parish website under Teaching the Faith, Sacramental Preparation.

Meeting for those Attending Work Camp in Greensboro:

For those youth and adults attending work camp in Greensboro in July, we will have our final meeting on June 20th at 7 pm in the Matthew Mark room of the ELC building. Please make sure you keep this date open and are present at the meeting.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Religious Education registration for the 2022-2023 school year are available to all families reg-

istered in the parish, and are stilling being accepted. Religious Education classes run Sunday mornings from September 25th thru May 7th, 9:40am-10:50am. Please return to Alicia Poppiti at the ICC Religious Education office. You can also download and print from here:

New Registrants https://www.iccmaryl.org/uploads/6/9/0/4/69049539/new_sre_registration_form_2021.pdf
Renewal Registrants https://www.iccmaryl.org/uploads/6/9/0/4/69049539/sre_registration_form_2021.pdf
And Form A English https://www.iccmaryl.org/uploads/6/9/0/4/69049539/form_a_-_new.pdf
Spanish https://www.iccmaryl.org/uploads/6/9/0/4/69049539/form_a_-_spanish_1_.pdf

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Alicia Poppiti @410-482-8939 or dre@iccmaryl.org for more information. If you have any difficulty with affording RE, please call Alicia Poppiti, and the office can assist you.

Your Assistance is requested for School Year Religious Education: ICC wants your assistance, as we are in need of Catechists, Assistants, substitutes and helpers for next year for Religious Education on Sunday mornings, from September 18th until May 7th, 9:40-10:50am. Contact Alicia Poppiti @410-482- 8939 or dre@iccmaryl.org for more information.

VBS AT ICC

Registrations are now available. Children must be registered to attend.



Team Members Needed for Food Truck Party VBS! We need you to join us on our way to Food Truck Party VBS! Contact Alicia Poppiti for more information 410-482-8939
Vacation Bible School at Immaculate Conception is from August 1-5, from 6-8:30pm in the Hall. To sign up for opportunities to serve, lead, and most of all, HAVE FUN at Food Truck Party! Join us as we get On a Roll with God!

In disgust, over time, I had finally resigned myself to the fact that it wasn't going to happen. I have often railed over the unfairness of it all. "I don't mind being on the bottom of the totem pole, but at the very least, I'd like to know that we're on it!"

I've never thought it fair that educators were overlooked when it came to those who made a difference during the pandemic. Never, never have I ever taken a thing away from the front-line workers, but when it comes to being in the trenches, I know of hundreds of educators who were huddled alongside fighting to sustain the child's right to a proper education. But, no one ever asks for my opinion, by the time I climb up on my soap box, the crowds have all dispersed.

But believe it or not, it happened on Saturday!! I was doing a bit of shopping. Standing in line, it finally became my turn to pay for my purchase; the weary eyed cashier who couldn't have cared less if I bought anything in their store or not went through the tedious routine of scanning and bagging my items. Before hitting the final button on the touch screen, she looked at me and started her little spiel. "Are you military, medical worker, law enforcement...I shook my head in the negative.....are you a teacher...Wait! What did she say? My husband responded for me. Yes! She's an educator. In her best hum-drum voice she asked for ID. Digging in my purse, looking for my keys...yahoo! I produced the proof she asked for. Yes indeed, it finally happened; 10% discount on my purchase!!

Now, please don't misunderstand. I don't feel like I deserve monetary recognition of my life's work, but it's sure nice to know we are finally someplace on the old totem pole! It's gratifying to know that someone in the community at large realizes that if not for the teacher, no one would possess the training, the skills, or possess the knowledge to perform their life's work.

I was speaking with someone who just retired from her position as an educator. After many years, she has decided to pursue other opportunities. I have known Mrs. K. for a hundred years. I taught her daughter. Her daughter in now an educator, she teaches Math. (of course) Anyhow, Mrs. K. used to work in the Before-Care program at Holy Cross before going to her school for the rest of the day. Now, in her retirement she is looking to return to HC. We continued to chat, I always so enjoyed her unique and subtle sense of humor, along with her British accent. "I tell everyone that my daughter's success is because of her Holy Cross education. I send everyone I know here..."

It's usually the case that our graduates don't fully realize the value of the gift of their Catholic education until they leave us. Mrs. Riecks was telling me of a recent conversation with an ascending sophomore attending St. Mark's High School. The young lady told Mrs. Riecks that when her classmates started balancing equations in her Chemistry class that it wasn't uncharted territory for her. She remembered balancing equations in Mrs. Riecks class!

Our graduates leave us with a well packed tool-kit. They transition well, and because it's a small world we live in, the good word of their successful endeavors always travels back to us one way or another.

There it sat. My purple envelope was burgeoning with catalogs and other unimportant mail. Sifting through at the end of the day, I lifted out a plain white legal sized envelope on which was neatly written:

To: Mrs. Pollitt From: Dana S.

Drawing the conclusion that Dana and her classmates had been given an assignment to write a friendly letter, I was eager to read what she had written. The body of her letter follows:

Dear Ms. Pollitt

I have gone to your school since I was in kindergarten, and I have only good things to say about it. The students, staff, and the environment always make me feel right at home

A very important aspect of Holy Cross is the teaching of the Catholic values. Through daily religion classes and occasional Masses, your students learn the proper beliefs and attitudes that good Christians should possess. I feel that this is by far the best part of your school's curriculum. Not only do you teach students about Jesus, but you and other teachers also encourage them to live by His example throughout their lives. I wish that more schools would do this.

While the faith aspect of Holy Cross is most important, your school makes sure students have the opportunity to be well rounded. The school has a very strong curriculum in the core subjects and provides various clubs and sports after school. Between Science Club, band, Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, art, robotics, Publication Design, Odyssey of the Mind and all the sports, everyone can find something they are passionate about. Every student has a chance to excel.

Everyone that I talk with always speaks highly of Holy Cross. Holy Cross is truly a terrific school and I think that anyone who wants the finest Catholic education should attend it. Thank you for your time and dedication to making Holy Cross the perfect place for kids to learn and grow.

*Sincerely,
Dana S.*

The letter has been included here, verbatim. Dana is a rising eighth grader. What is it they say; out of the mouths of babes?

Dana's letter is priceless. It is a testimony; it is a personal account of her educational experience. And, it's an expression of gratitude written for all of our teachers so they know that they are indeed making a difference in young lives, shaping them, preparing them to face countless tomorrows.

Now, I don't know about you, but I think that's better than any 10% discount!

is, as a common form of agreement. But that is certainly not true: We are not in contract negotiations with God. Consensus – a commonly agreed idea of something -- is a buzzword of modern times; it is a word that hobbles excellence, while avoiding pitfalls – it seeks some form of an acceptable area of agreement. It is an area of activity that can quickly morph into one’s “yes” not meaning “yes” and one’s “no” not meaning “no.” It is a middle ground built on compromise – which might sound great, until one’s values and beliefs are what are being compromised.

Give and Take. Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher once said, though I paraphrase, “There is nothing so distasteful as a fashionable consensus.” Similarly, St. Augustine famously said, in much more pointed language, “Error has no rights.” With those phrases in mind, let me be clear, a consensus is not a communion. A consensus means a little give-and-take, striking a common understanding upon which everyone agrees. A consensus is a good thing in many areas of life. It is what one seeks when going out with a group of friends and trying to decide on a movie or a restaurant.

Of Restaurants and Righteousness. When seeking between going to Franco’s, Buono’s, Carletto’s, Giacomo’s, Roma’s or Vincenzo’s Restaurants, a group might seek to strike a consensus... that is reasonable. However, when the issue is good and evil, right and wrong, morality and immorality, righteous and unrighteous, there is no consensus to be struck. While one might seek to find different good options to address a specific issue, we should not have, as a starting premise, to seek to strike the middle ground between good and evil.

Meanwhile in Iceland. Thus, when choosing where one wants to eat out, a group of friends might seek a consensus; but one of the options isn’t to break into someone house and steal their food. More pointedly, in Iceland, there was a move to address the issue of children born with Down Syndrome, a commendable idea in the sense of medical research, pre-natal care, testing, etc. But, what the Icelandic government did, in-effect, was promote abortions for women pregnant with Down Syndrome babies. And these days, in Iceland nearly 100% of pregnancy with Down Syndrome end in abortion. As one national newspaper noted in article on this topic, “An Iceland geneticist says, ‘we have basically eradicated’ Down syndrome people.” They did it, of course, by eradicating not the condition but the people with the condition. Kind of like ending the problem of people suffering with cancer by killing them and saying “Problem solved.”

Truth. To repeat what I said earlier, when the issue is good and evil, right and wrong, morality and immorality, righteous and unrighteous, there is no consensus to be struck. There is the truth... and that is all. And if some hold a position outside of that truth, that is, and by definition must be, more than just a mere difference of opinion. As it stated in the Second Vatican Council document *Lumen Gentium*, regarding the Church, “*although many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside of its visible structure. These elements, as gifts belonging to the Church of Christ, are forces impelling toward catholic unity.*” That is to say, if what is held by someone outside the Church is part and parcel of the truth, that truth is already found within the Church, and may bring that person closer to joining the Church one day. Maybe more musically to the point, singer Todd Rundgren, in a song called “Truth” said: “*I tried to find [truth] looking in the works of man / And if it’s in there / well it’s sure not clear.*” Indeed, truth can be known by man, but truth is bound up not in man’s work but in God who gave him life.

Many people today lament the loss of the truth by watching what is going on in the world around – the seeds of doubt sown, secular humanistic values rising, godlessness growing – but don’t lament! It is by seeing falsity, that the truth becomes more and more clear to us and our faith strengthened. As one songwriter put it, “You who love the truth [are you who] have seen so many lies.” Keep the faith!

In the next Pastor’s Column, I will continue this top of Communion vs. consensus – and what kind of a “communion” we are bound to in faith.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor